

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

1. PRESS REPORTS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14 FOCUSED ON DISCUSSION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT PARTY AND OPPOSITION OVER PLACE OF KIM ITEM ON AGENDA OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 20. OPPOSITION DEMANDED DISCUSSION OF KIM CASE AS FIRST ITEM ON SEVEN POINT AGENDA.

2. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG-TAE REPLIED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD REPORT ON PROGRESS TO DATE OF INVESTIGATION INTO KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE AS PART OF A GENERAL PRESENTATION ON STATE AFFAIRS, AND THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM CASE ONLY UNDER BROADER AGENDA TOPICS. (COMMENT: SINCE RULES PERMIT ONLY TWO SPEECHES ON EACH AGENDA ITEM, EFFECT OF DRP'S POSITION IS TO SHORTEN AND DILUTE INTERPELLATION ON KIM CASE.) FLOOR LEADER KIM ADDED THAT HE VIEWED ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO "BRING TO THEIR SENSES" JAPANESE JOURNALISTS

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WHO WERE WRITING IRRESPONSIBLE AND BIASED REPORTS.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS SEPTEMBER 14 REPORTED STATEMENTS FAVORABLE TO ROKG ALLEGEDLY MADE BY FORMER JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KANAYAMA. KANAYAMA REPORTEDLY WARNED JAPANESE PRESS OF LIKELY ANTI-JAPANESE REACTION IF THEY CONTINUED TO SLANT THE NEWS TO FIT THEIR PRECONCEPTIONS. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING KIM KIDNAPPING HAD SURPRISED KOREAN LEADERS "LIKE WATER POURED IN THE EAR OF A SLEEPING MAN".

4. PAPERS REPORTED CONTINUING EFFORTS OF HOC COMMITTEE TO SEE KIM TAE-CHUNG. COMMITTEE MEMBERS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER SEPTEMBER 13 TO REQUEST VISIT AND ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET JUSTICE MINISTER SEPTEMBER 15. NDP HAS HELD UP ITS STUDY OF JUSTICE MINISTRY BUDGET TO DRAMATIZE ITS POINT.

5. REPORTS FROM TOKYO SAY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU HAS AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET KIM CHONG-PIL ON SEPTEMBER 15 TO DISCUSS KIM CASE PRIOR TO RETURNING TO JAPAN FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE.
HABIB

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